

Rachbury RDC

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1944
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Mr. Chairman, Miss Stephenson and Gentlemen,
I beg to present my sixth war-time report in the prescribed abbreviated form.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED :- Male 27 Female 45 Total 72
(compared with 80 in 1943)

The rate per 1000 of population was 12.0 compared with 13.1 in 1943.

The rate per 1000 of population in England & Wales was 18.0.

NUMBER OF DEATHS REGISTERED :- Male 39, Female 46, Total 85.
(compared with 82 in 1943).

The rate per 1000 was 14.1 compared with 13.5 in 1943.

The rate per 1000 in England & Wales was 11.9.

There was one death in infancy (i.e. under one year of age).

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH were as follows:-

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels (including apoplexy and old-age heart degeneration) 40.

Cancer 9 three less than in the previous year.

Violence (including fatal injuries sustained in military operations) 7

Bronchitis 6.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Total notifications numbered 87, compared with 124 in 1943

They were classified as follows:- Whooping Cough 49

Pneumonia 22

Erysipilas 13

Diphtheria 1

Scarlet Fever 1

Measles 1

There were no deaths due to measles or whooping cough.

The one case of diphtheria occurred in an adult and the supposed cause of this case has, after considerable delay, been eliminated.

Thus in the three years 1942, 1943 and 1944 we have had only two cases of diphtheria - both in adults - one of these being the above mentioned case and the other the case of a lady doctor who brought the infection after being in direct contact with a case of diphtheria.

There can be no doubt that this satisfactory record is due to the immunisation drive of 1941, and the regular practice of immunisation of children under school age at the Welfare Centre.

TUBERCULOSIS Five cases were notified, two relating to the lungs and three to other forms, and one of the latter (intestinal) proved fatal.

This record compares most favourably with that of previous years.

VENERAL Disease No cases were brought to my notice during the year and I have made no recommendations to the Council as regards films, posters, lectures and the rest.

There was no need to take any steps to combat infestation by head lice - cleanliness was generally quite satisfactory, and the number of cases of scabies rapidly diminishing.

WATER SUPPLY I quote the following salient remarks from a short review kindly made by your Surveyor, Mr. Clarkson:-

"ROTHBURY Has been vey good: Excellent water, and except on very rare occasions no sign of any shortage.

LONGFRAMLINGTON Has been a source of trouble more or less all summer. Very short at West End of Village due no doubt to heavy draw of water by the military and perhaps a bad a leak which we have been unable to locate as yet. Has been a little better lately but not good by any means.

WHITTINGHAM Has been quite good since the pump was fixed. One or two occasions short supply - frozen supply pipes and frozen main - very severe winter.

ALWINTON This supply is owned by the Vicar of Alwinton. Not too good should be relaid from springs - at present comes from Alwin Burn.

HARBOTTLE Quite good supply since alteration in joining up main supply to village main. Have received no complaints as to any shortage and there appears to be ample water for all.

HEPPLE Is a private supply - very poor - is owned by Mr. James Howey Better supply is needed ".

REMARKS The weather of 1944 was cold in the first half of the year and with continuous rain throughout the autumn.

Despite the absence of sunshin, the rationing of essential foods and the difficulty of keeping the home fires burning largely with logs of wood, the health of the people was remarkably good.

The increase consumption of milk and the provision of fruit juice for children and nursing mothers must have had a very beneficial effect, but we in the North would be all the better for a more generous supply of fats in the winter, and fresh fruits in the summer and autumn.

SIGNED A S. HEDLEY

